

## **UVU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

January 28, 2021

4:00pm MSFT Teams

### **Board of Trustee Members Present**

R. Duff Thompson, Chair  
Jill Taylor, Second Vice Chair  
Karen Acerson  
Rick Nielsen  
Dru Huffaker  
Scott Smith  
Paul Thompson  
Danielle Corbett

### **Others Present**

Cameron Gunter  
Arthur Newell  
Geoffrey Landward

### **UVU Attendees**

Astrid S. Tuminez, President  
Clark Collings, General Counsel  
Scott Cooksey, Vice President, Institutional Advancement  
Kelly Flanagan, Vice President, Digital Transformation  
Linda Makin, Vice President, Planning, Budgets, and HR  
Kyle Reyes, Vice President Student Affairs  
Val Peterson, Vice President, Finance and Administration  
Wayne Vaught, Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Kara Schneck, Chief of Staff  
Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, CIDO  
Anne Arendt, Faculty Senate President  
Beka Grulich, PACE President  
Stephen Whyte, Vice President, University Relations  
Ashley Larsen, Associate Dean- Students  
Bryce Krieger, Presidential Intern  
Collin Craig, Technician  
Jenny Christensen, Legal Secretary

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Duff Thompson welcomed those in attendance to the January 28, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting.

## II. INFORMATION

### **1. Spring Semester 2021 Update**

Provost Wayne Vaught provided an update on the new Spring 2021 semester. The protocols that were in place last semester have carried over to the new semester. Students and faculty are accustomed to the guidelines and there have been very little issues. The University is in a phase of gathering final enrollment numbers for Spring and enrollment looks to be down around 2% which is comparable to Fall 2020. There was a state mandate to test students taking in-person classes for COVID-19 within the first two weeks of returning to school. UVU has conducted a total of 8,000 tests on campus with a positivity rate of 3.56%. There were 216 students and 43 employees who tested positive between Jan 4 - 27, 2021. The University will be contract tracing based on surveys and a selective analysis for a random selection to test. There has not been a lot of spread on campus, and those who have had the virus are getting it off campus. All numbers are publicly available on the Return to Campus webpage. UVU is staying on top of testing, working with faculty and technology is working well. Faculty are also continuing to meet the needs of the students. Chair Thompson inquired about the vaccine. The University has not been asked to participate in the roll-out. Vice President Val Peterson addressed the vaccination process. The current concentration is for those in the 70+ age population. Governor Cox has said that they are working on an additional roll-out. Around April and May, the state will have the next target group with those who are 65 and older. As more vaccinations are provided, they will work down through the age groups. Chair Thompson suggests that UVU helps in whatever way it can. Provost Vaught concluded his update by reporting that UVU's Director for Emergency Management and Safety, Robin Ebmeyer, has been working very closely with the Utah County Health Department, and the University is ready to help when necessary.

## **2. Legislative Update and Strategy**

Vice President Val Peterson provided an update on the legislative session. All base budget bills were passed, in the amount of \$20B. The State of Utah is funded at the same level as last year, which is a big milestone. Higher education's appropriations bill was funded at \$2.1B. Those funds represent the 2.5% that the University was defunded last year due to the pandemic. The higher education committee has set priorities for the session, which include the impacts and innovations discovered due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a performance-based funding proposal. President Tuminez will be presenting February 2.

Associate Vice President Stephen Whyte added to the update. He reported that UVU has 14 students that are serving as interns to senators and representatives, 5 of the 14 have been selected by the leadership of the legislature. This is an incredible engaged learning opportunity for UVU students. A "Quick Facts" card was created for legislators that concisely summarizes UVU's budget priorities and tells the UVU story. Budget priorities for this session include compensation and mandatory increases, salary and health insurance increases, mandatory cost increases for insurance premiums and risk management rate increases. Other priorities include faculty rank and tenure promotion so UVU can meet its contractual obligations, performance funding and growth funding. These priorities all align with Vision 2030. They are cautiously optimistic that these will be funded but other areas must be funded first. Mr. Whyte suggested a few things that the Board of Trustees can do to help, which include personally contacting their senators and representatives and asking them to support UVU's requests, and then also to ask their friends, the legislators who are on the two committees and ask them to support UVU's requests.

Vice President Val Peterson added that the interns have had a tremendous impact. The legislature did fully fund public education's requests for \$400M. Utah is the only state to increase funding at this point. The legislature did set aside about a 3% increase for state employees.

## **3. Committee Reports**

Trustee Jill Taylor provided an update for the Finance and Facilities Committee. She first reported on tuition and student fees. A University committee has done a thorough look at student fees to determine if the current fees should be student fees or part of tuition. There is a suggestion to either reduce student fees by \$37 and increase tuition \$44, which is not evened out because of tuition waivers, or to increase tuition 1.64%. UVU, in comparison to so many other institutions, does have great affordability. There are still challenges and the University was presented with three potential options. The first option would be considered if the legislature were to approve everything that has been requested. The second option would be an increase in tuition of 1.46% which would cover the basics. The last option would be a 3.5% increase which allows the University to do everything necessary and would allow funding of some of the initiatives that have already been selected as vital to the University, such as communications and digital transformation. The committee believes that they will land somewhere between 1.46% and 3.5%. Any tuition changes will happen for the Fall 2021 semester. There will be a new fee schedule for the Physician Assistant program. There is also a suggestion that non-resident students pay the same fees as resident students in the online only graduate programs. Trustee Taylor concluded with a revenue update. UVU will be starting a little higher than last year; however, there is still negative impact from COVID-19.

## **III. CLOSED SESSION**

Trustee Dru Huffaker motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Trustee Jill Taylor seconded. The motion was carried without opposition.

#### IV. ACTION

##### **1. Naming Approval**

Trustee Rick Nielsen motioned to approve the naming of the new Institutional Advancement building and event center as presented. Trustee Karen Acerson seconded. The motion carried without opposition.

##### **2. Trustees Awards of Excellence and Honorary Degrees Approvals**

Trustee Karen Acerson motioned to approve the recipients of the Trustees Award of Excellence and Honorary Degree as presented. Trustee Jill Taylor seconded. The motion carried without opposition.

##### **3. Policy Approvals**

Vice President Scott Cooksey presented Policy 104. Associate Dean Ashley Larsen presented and discussed Policy 161. Trustee Danielle Corbett motioned to approve the policies as presented. Trustee Scott Smith seconded. The motion carried without opposition.

##### **4. Program Approvals**

Provost Wayne Vaught provided a brief summary of the following programs to be approved: Bachelor of Applied Science in Software Development; Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics; Bachelor of Science in Computational Data Science; Bachelor of Science in Microbiology; Clinical Mental Health Counseling, MS; Certificate of Proficiency in Data Analytics and Decision Making; Certificate of Proficiency in Woodworking Education; Secondary and Special Education; Healthcare Administration; Healthcare Services; Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management; Master of Science in Mathematics Education; Operations and Supply Chain Management; and Public Relations and Strategic Communication. Trustee Dru Huffaker motioned to approve the programs as presented. Trustee Karen Acerson seconded. The motion carried without opposition.

#### V. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Val Peterson provided a brief comment regarding the Vehicle Fleet Report. Vice President Linda Makin briefly commented on the policies to be ratified. Trustee Scott Smith motioned to approve the consent agenda which included the Minutes of the December 2, 2020 Board Meeting; October and November Investment Reports; Vehicle Fleet Report; and Policies for Ratification. Trustee Dru Huffaker seconded. The motion was carried without opposition.

#### VI. INFORMATION AGENDA (continued)

##### **4. President's Report**

President Astrid Tuminez addressed some changes with the role of the Provost and welcomed her new Executive Assistant, Annette Lund. She briefly discussed enrollment numbers. President thanked those who attended the State of the University address. It was announced that Dr. Wendy Watson Nelson will be the commencement speaker. An update was provided on funding from the CARES Act, close to \$9M was dispersed. The new CARES funding has been extremely important. It has allowed the University to have just over \$45M in new allocations. Retention is at its highest with 67.13% for 2019-2020. The Outcome Measure 8-year completion rate for 2012-2020 was 41.19%. The goal for 2025 is 45%.

President highlighted UVU athletics and the recent success of UVU student athletes. She reported that there is an 80% completion rate for student athletes. The Station 1 partnership was highlighted. President discussed sharing the story of the University. She has recently met with the editorial board of the Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News, and KSL. The Daily Herald has been providing a lot of positive coverage on the University. The Anthony Hinton speaking event was highlighted. President Tuminez concluded by sharing that National Securities study week is coming up in February with guest speakers Graham Allison, Professor Celeste Wallander and Ambassador Laura Holgate.

Chair R. Duff Thompson adjourned the meeting.